

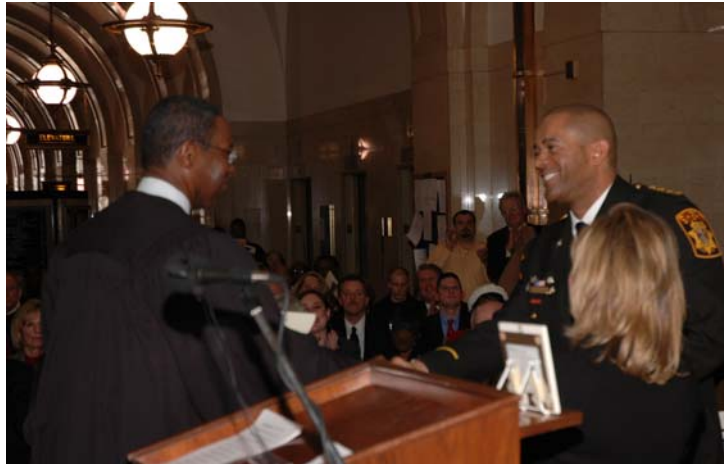


**David A. Clarke Jr.**  
*Sheriff*

# **Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff**

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **Investiture Ceremony for Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. Milwaukee County Courthouse Rotunda January 10, 2007**

Thank you, and good afternoon. Four years ago, after spending a quarter of my life in law enforcement, I was given the honor of serving the people of Milwaukee County by being elected their Sheriff. At the time, I promised only one thing, that I would always represent the people's interest first.

A survey taken by the Council for Excellence in Government, found that two out of every three Americans feel "disconnected" from their government. Additionally more than half of our society does not believe the government is any longer of, by, and for the people.

I purchased the plaque that you see here, at the National Archives in Washington D.C., where the original document that created our representative form of government resides today. This plaque sits on my desk. It serves as a daily reminder of the vow I made to the people who elected me to represent their interests in the office of the sheriff. The people, after all, in our representative democracy, are the owners of the government.

For more information about the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office,  
visit our website at [www.mksheriff.org](http://www.mksheriff.org).

This at times has put me at odds with entrenched bureaucrats, government insiders and other special interests, all of who benefit from a government that at times and at all levels under-serves and under-performs.

Some people along the way have advised against this approach, for political reasons. I told them that some things matter more to me than political success.

Abraham Lincoln said, and I quote, “I desire to so conduct the affairs of this administration that if, at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall have at least one friend left-and that friend shall be down inside me.”

As I begin my second term as Sheriff of Milwaukee County, the two out of three people who feel “disconnected” from their government, and the fifty percent who believe that government is no longer of, for, and by the people, can rest assured that I will not forget that my role as a public servant is to continue to fight the defenders of the status quo.

This will not be a continuation of the first four years. The biggest challenge of a second term is to guard against having the disease of complacency spread through this organization.

The first four years laid the foundation for us to become a good law enforcement agency. We’re now mission-focused and ready to make that leap required to become a great law enforcement agency.

Building on the vision I set for this agency four years ago, I want this to become an organization of new ideas, because what previously worked for us in the last four years may be obsolete and no longer useful to the people we serve.

I want to accomplish ***three objectives*** in my second term.

***First***, we will have an emphasis on ***better customer service***. We’re in the service business, and interact with citizens on a daily basis. I want our people to treat citizens as if they have choices and that we’re competing for their business, even though government service is often a monopoly.

***Second***, we will reinforce our emphasis on ***ethical conduct and behavior*** by our law enforcement officers. It seems that every time you pick up a newspaper, you read about some indiscretion that a law enforcement officer has engaged in. The code of silence has created a credibility gap with the public. When this happens, we lose the public trust. As Sheriff, I am responsible for ensuring that people are protected, not officers only from the criminal element, but from unethical law enforcement as well. I will constantly evaluate our training, our tactics and our actions.

***Third***, we will have a continued emphasis on ***efficiency***.

My philosophy mirrors that of Thomas Edison who said that if there is a better – and I'll add more cost effective way – to do your job—then find it. Our goal will always be to give better value for people's tax dollars.

***Better service, better behavior, and better efficiency*** will translate into increased public confidence. Increased public confidence leads to more public cooperation. More public cooperation means people will be safer in their homes, schools and neighborhoods; it means safer public spaces like our parks and lakefront, it means making the freeway a safer place to drive, it means more secure courts, a more secure county jail.

Ladies and gentlemen Milwaukee County will be a better place to live.

May God continue to bless each and every one of you. Thank you very much.

